

WCC-2016-Rec-110-EN

Strengthening business engagement in biodiversity preservation

RECOGNISING that companies have a high level of social and environmental responsibility, and should adopt an ethical approach based on respect for human rights, biodiversity, the diversity of life and the cultural diversity of different peoples, and thus play an active role in sustainable development;

STRESSING IUCN's mission to influence the whole of society, including business, to conserve biodiversity and ensure the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources;

NOTING that the Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP8, Curitiba, Brazil, 2006) and that CBD COP9 (Bonn, Germany, 2008), invited Parties to improve actions and cooperation for business commitment to biodiversity conservation;

ALSO NOTING that CBD COP10 (Nagoya, Japan, 2010) adopted an important decision (decision X/21) with the aim to strengthen the commitment of the private sector, to involve it in the implementation of biodiversity conservation objectives and to engage it in dialogue through the establishment of a global platform;

FURTHER NOTING that the decisions on business engagement adopted at CBD COP11 (Hyderabad, India, 2012) and CBD COP12 (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 2014) – decisions XI/7, XII/3 and XII/10 – strengthened previous decisions;

RECOGNISING and WELCOMING the contributions by the Global Platform for Business and Biodiversity and the work carried out by certain stakeholders to encourage businesses to decrease their impact on biodiversity and to make more sustainable use of natural resources, as shown by the growing number of national, regional or global initiatives linked to business and biodiversity (the IUCN French Committee's Working Group, Leaders for Nature, the European Business and Biodiversity [B@B] Platform); and

WELCOMING the initiatives carried out by increasing numbers of businesses or their networks, having drawn up voluntary action plans (voluntary membership of businesses in the French National Biodiversity Strategy, actions carried out by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, etc.);

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. CALLS ON businesses to contribute actively to the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to integrate biodiversity into their strategies and activities by aiming at achieving the transformation of their economic model;
2. ALSO CALLS ON businesses, in order to achieve this, to begin straight away to draw up specific, ambitious action plans, published and promoted widely, proportionate to their capacities, including measures to:
 - a. raise the awareness of administrators, shareholders, investors, financiers and staff members in order to increase their understanding of biodiversity issues;
 - b. train operational staff members, increasing in-house skills;
 - c. reduce direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity, taking into account entire production and supply chains, including using the appropriate efficient certification systems, product life cycles and the publication of georeferenced maps of their supply sites and the conservation values associated with their supply chains;
 - d. protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems beyond legal and regulatory obligations;
 - e. manage the biodiversity on their sites sustainably through local partnerships;

- f. invest in natural sustainable infrastructure and environmental engineering;
 - g. mobilise the necessary human, financial and technical resources, including capacity building aimed at protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity;
 - h. cooperate with their suppliers and customers, including through consumer education campaigns; and
 - i. robust, transparent reporting of their actions for biodiversity through the appropriate indicators and monitoring of business reports such as those described in the Global Reporting Initiative and the IUCN French Committee's Corporate Biodiversity Reporting and Indicators;
3. INVITES governments to establish incentive and binding technical, political and tax frameworks of measures in order to get businesses to embark upon this path;
and
4. ENCOURAGES members to cooperate with volunteer companies to create and implement strategies for biodiversity, whatever their size or field of activity.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this motion for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.